

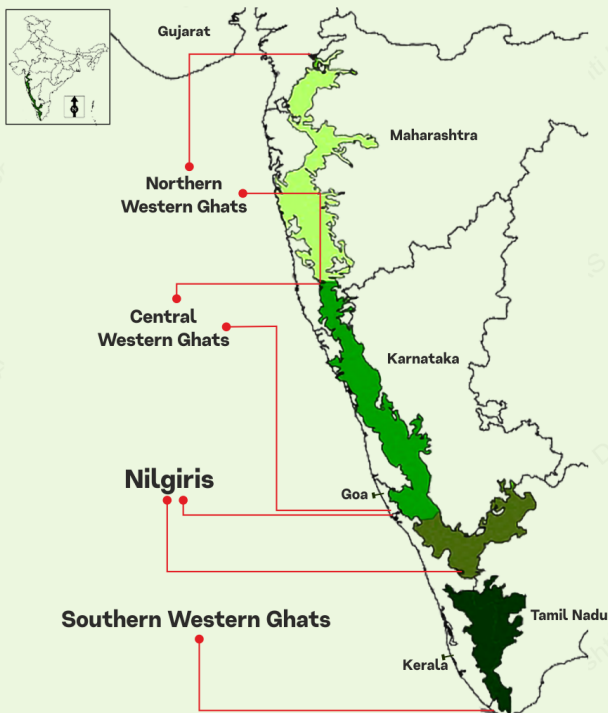


Western Ghats

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Western Ghats

One of the four biodiversity hotspots of India; recognised as a UNESCO WHS (2012)



Names

- **Sahyadri** - northern Maharashtra; **Sahya Parvatham** - Kerala

Diverted views about Mt. type

- **View 1:** Block Mt. formed due to down warping of a part of land into Arabian Sea
- **View 2:** Not true mt. rather the faulted edge of **Deccan Plateau**

Major Rocks

- **Basalt, granite gneiss, khondalites, metamorphic gneisses, crystalline limestone, iron ore**

Geographical Extent

- **Satpura** (in north) to the **end of TN at Kanyakumari** (in south)

Mt. Ranges

- Nilgiri ranges, Shevaroy and Tirumala range
- **Highest peak - Anamudi** (Kerala)

Rivers (originating)

- **West-flowing:** Periyar, Bharathappuzha, Netravati, Sharavathi, Mandovi
- **East-flowing:** Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, Tunga, Bhadra, Bhima, Malaprabha, Ghataprabha, Hemavathi, Kabini

Endemic Species

- **Nilgiri tahr** (IUCN Status - EN)
- **Lion-tailed macaque** (IUCN Status - EN)

Imp Protected Areas

- **Biosphere Reserves** - Agasthyamala and Nilgiri
- **NP** - Silent Valley, Bandipur, Eravikulam, Wayanad-Mudumalai, Nagarhole
- **TR** - Kalakad-Mundanthurai, Periyar

Imp Passes

- Thal Ghat Pass (Kasara Ghat)
- Bhor Ghat Pass
- Palakkad Gap (Pal Ghat)
- **Amba Ghat Pass**
- **Naneghat Pass**
- **Amboli Ghat Pass**

Significance

- **Hydroelectricity** production
- Influences **Indian monsoon weather patterns**
- **Carbon sequestration** (neutralise ~4 MT of carbon every year)
- One of the 8 global **hottest hotspots** of biodiversity (due to richness in species and endemism)
- Rich in **iron, manganese and bauxite ores, timber, pepper, cardamom, oil palm and rubber**
- Sizeable indigenous population (including PVTGs)
- Important tourism/pilgrimage centres

Major Threats

- Mining, Industrialisation
- Massive extraction of forest produce
- Human-wildlife conflict, encroachment, illegal hunting
- Livestock grazing, deforestation
- Large hydropower projects
- Climate change

Imp Committees

- **Gadgil Committee (2011)** (Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel)
 - » **Recommendation:** All of WG be declared as Ecological Sensitive Area (ESA) with only limited development allowed in graded zones.
- **Kasturirangan Committee (2013)**
 - » **Recommendation:** Instead of whole, only 37% of the total area of WG be brought under ESA + complete ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining be imposed in ESA.

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